

SPAIN'S PSEUDO-DEMOCRACY

TRIBUNE
PERE MIRET

Economist and member of the Economy
Section of the National Catalan Assembly
(ANC)

Two years ago, on October 27, 2017, the Catalan Republic was proclaimed by the democratically elected Catalan parliament. The will of the majority of the Catalan people was, and is, to free itself from centuries of colonial oppression by Spanish imperialism and to build a new democratic and social state free of Spain's structural corruption and the resulting economic inefficiency. The proclamation was valid according to international law. Despite this, the Catalan Republic has not yet become effective. However, in the many processes of independence, years have elapsed between the proclamation of independence and its coming into effect.

Conflict with Catalonia has been one of the main causes of the current political crisis in Spain. Indeed, in the last four years there will have been four general elections to the Spanish parliament, three failed prime minister appointments and two votes of no-confidence, one of which succeeded. This has been the case because the Spanish parliamentary parties refuse to resolve the conflict between Catalonia and Spain by democratic means and have engaged in a repressive spiral by adopting the point of view of the extreme right with respect to Catalonia. Thus, with a view to the general election to the Spanish parliament on November 10, 2019, the main Spanish parliamentary

parties are considering the further suppression of already limited Catalan autonomy, from a clearly dictatorial stance.

The representatives of the Spanish state when the Basque organisation ETA still existed said that anything could be talked about if there was an absence of violence. Well, it is indisputable that the Catalan independence movement, in spite of the pro-independence mass demonstrations since 2012 (the rally of the National Day in September 2019 brought together nearly one

In October 2017, Spain imprisoned prominent social leaders, part of the legitimate government of Catalonia, while the rest went into exile. It tried to imprison the political exiles, but different European courts denied extradition because they had not committed the crimes the Spanish judiciary charged them with. In recent months, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has called for the immediate release of the Catalan political prisoners. Instead, Spain has accelerated the neo-fascist drift and attempted to criminalise the pro-independence movement with ridiculous accusations of terrorism against seven independence activists at the end of September 2019. In October, harsh sentences were handed down to these political prisoners. There was violence in Barcelona in August 2017, a month and a half before the referendum on self-determination on October 1, but it was caused by a jihadi cell of which the head was an informant for the Spanish secret services. And the major parties in Spain refused to confirm this. There was also violence on October 1, 2017 by the Spanish police against voting citizens. In this context, the Council of Europe has begun an investigation

to find out how Spain and Turkey are using justice against Catalan and Kurdish politicians. Faced with serious violations of human rights in Catalonia, the European Union cannot betray its founding values and can no longer delay application of Article 7 of the EU Treaty in Spain. The alternative is the disintegration of the European Union.



Spain's acting president, Pedro Sánchez, addressing parliament. EFE

million people, the largest in Europe so far), has always been peaceful in nature. However, not only do they not recognise the Catalan people's right to self-determination, but they have actually imprisoned the Catalan parliament speaker for allowing a debate! And the Parliament of Catalonia has recently been threatened to prevent it from debating various other issues.